specification, it is a straight-forward matter to write the statements of the program executed by each "bubble". This may be done directly in the chosen programming language or by means of well-known intermediate steps such as structured English.

In terms of the above conventions, FIG. 4 is a context data flow diagram of the overall operating system for the video picture file portion of the video disk player. FIG. 5 is a level 1 child diagram expanding upon the file operating system "bubble" in FIG. 4 and showing the four modes of operation, that is, the "set-up", "edit", "normal" and "album modes". FIGS. 6 and 7 are level 2 child diagrams expanding upon two of the four modes show in FIG. 5. FIGS. 8–10 are level 3 child diagrams expanding upon three of the separate editing levels shown by FIG. 7. Table I (at the end of the specification) shows the data dictionary for the data names associated with the named vectors of FIGS. 4–10.

The data flow diagrams of FIGS. 4–10, in combination with the data dictionary listed in Table I, are self-explanatory to a programmer of ordinary skill in structured systems design. However, again for the general reader, some comments are helpful. Some of the process "bubbles" relate to circuit elements shown in FIGS. 2A and 2B. In the context diagram of FIG. 4, a user control process 280 includes operation of the remote controller 24, a video signal generation process 282 includes operation of the video circuit 205 and a graphics generation process 284 includes operation of the text generator 206. The mechanical operating system 286 and the file operating system 288 include operating programs stored in the memory 201 and executed under direction of the microcomputer 200. The picture track 290 and the magazine memory 292 correspond directly to operations involving the video tracks on the disk 10 and the remote memory 20 (FIG. 1), respectively. (In the following description, data names will be printed in capital letters and refer directly to like names in the data flow diagrams and the data dictionary.)

With regard to FIG. 4, USER SELECTIONS are received from the user control 280 via CONTROLLER INPUT to the mechanical operating system 286. The file operating system 288 requests the current status of CONTROLLER INPUT via an INPUT REQUEST to the mechanical operating system 286. The CONTROLLER INPUT is an 8-bit word indicating, by which bit is set, which button on the remote controller 24 is active (i.e., has been pressed). However, recalling the discussion of the "screens", not all buttons are active for a given screen. Therefore, the file operating system 288, which controls the "screen" being displayed, masks the INPUT REQUEST. In other words, though INPUT REQUEST accommodates all 8 bits of CONTROLLER INPUT, it is responsive to a selected subset of bits depending on the "screen" in use. The response back to the file operating system 288 is MASKED INPUTS, indicating which bit passed by the mask is active. If a passed bit is active, the file operating system 288 performs whatever function corresponds to the button that was depressed.

The "menu screen (2)" is produced by a mode control process 294 shown in the level 2 diagram of FIG. 5. The mode control process 294 triggers the four file operating modes previously described by appropriate SELECT signals, specifically by providing SET-UP SELECT to the set-up process 296, EDIT SELECT to the edit process 298, NORMAL SELECT to the normal process 300 and ALBUM SELECT to the album process 302. Control is returned to the mode selection process 294 by NEW SELECTION, which is generated by pressing select when the user is pointing to "exit to menu" in any of the "edit" mode "screens" or by pressing the exit button. FIGS. 6 and 7 show exemplary sub-level data flow diagrams for the the set-up process 296 and the edit process 298. The normal process 300 and the album process 302 are described in detail in related patent application (C) Ser. No. 644,166.

In the set-up process diagrammed by FIG. 6, an initialization process 304 starts the set-up process. SET-UP SCREEN initializes the text signals associated with the "set-up screen", which are stored in a working memory 306 (such as the RAM 210 in FIG. 2B). SET-UP READY causes the screen to print (print screen process 308), drawing upon previous conditions stored in the magazine memory 292. COMPLETE triggers the next input process 310, where the system waits for the next MASKED INPUT. The input will to be to move the cursor (process 312) by UP/DOWN or to make a selection (process 314) by SELECT. When a selection is made, it is stored in the magazine (remote) memory 292 in place of the previous selection. The user gets out of this loop by NEW SELECTION, which leads back to the menu screen (2).

In the edit mode shown by FIG. 7, editing is initiated by EDIT SELECT and the "edit option screen (3)" is then generated by the edit option control 316. The editing process is partitioned into five levels as shown in FIG. 7. The various SELECT commands determine which edit level is selected at any given time, as follows. DISK EDIT SELECT selects a first-level disk edit process 318, PICTURE EDIT SELECT selects a second-level picture edit process 320, ALBUM EDIT SELECT selects a third-level album edit process 322, TEXT EDIT SELECT selects a fourth-level text edit process 324, and RENAME EDIT SELECT selects a fifth-level rename edit process 326. The first through third-level processes are respectively described in detail by FIGS. 8–10. (The fourth and fifth-level processes are described in related patent application (C), Ser. No. 644,166.)

For the disk edit level shown by FIG. 8, the DISK EDIT SELECT command turns control over to an initialization routine 328, which generates the "disk select screen" (4) in process 330. With DISK ID selected DISK EDIT READY is put out to a print screen process 332. The latter process prints the "edit screen" (5), which displays the prerecorded picture along with a message identifying the display attributes, that is, the list of albums, which are associated with this level. The cursor is moved by sending UP/DOWN to process 334 and, once the cursor is adjacent a selected album, the decision to categorize this picture in the selected album is recorded via SELECT to an enterdelete process 336. The decision is stored in the remote memory 20. A next input process 338 looks for an active controller button by sending an INPUT REQUEST to the mechanical operating system 286 and waiting for a MASKED INPUT to come back. With the corresponding input active, the cursor is moved, a decision to enter or delete a picture from an album is made, the entire picture may be viewed (process 340), or a new picture may be retrieved (by FWD/REV to a picture selection process 341).

The picture edit level, described by FIG. 9, has a data flow similar to the disk edit level shown by FIG. 8. The "disk select screen" (4) and the "edit screen" (5) are